



Schafer Meadows Work Session

By: Mike Quinn, Aviation Support Officer

Once again mid-July saw the successful gathering of many hard working volunteers at the Schafer Meadows work session. Temperatures topping the century mark, mosquitoes large enough to merit tail numbers, and a good ol' fashioned mountain wilderness thunderstorm Saturday night could not quell the jovial atmosphere of one of aviation's most unique events.

With over two thousand aircraft in conjunction with spectators and participants numbering in the tens of thousands, event organizers expected... oh, wait, that's Oshkosh.

With almost 40 aircraft and volunteers numbering in the 80's, the Schafer Meadows work session brought more activity to this secluded Middle Fork Flathead River valley than a month of Mondays. After gathering at 9 A.M. at the ranger station Saturday, folks broke up into smaller groups and headed off to accomplish a variety of maintenance duties including replacing worn out sections of perimeter fence, cutting firewood, inspecting the windsock, filling gopher holes, repairing bear boxes (so that the bears won't get laughed at in bear-school for ugly lunch boxes), painting the fence at the approach end of runway 25 and clearing brush on the approach slope and runway. With so many eager and able working hands, most of the work was completed within a few hours, while a few hard-core helpers continued working on the fence well into the afternoon.

As the sun rode high, so too did the temperatures as the hottest weekend of the summer saw most of the volunteers head

for shade or to the Middle Fork of the Flathead River to seek solace from the oppressive heat. With the onset of evening, people tuned their ears for the telltale sound of a twin-engine aircraft marking the arrival of Loren Smith and Jane Mart of Great Falls. Their arrival meant the preparations would begin in earnest for the traditional 'big dinner' of Saturday night – ever so graciously provided yet again by Loren and Jane. This year was a true Red-blooded American, strap-on-a-feedbag, all-you-can-eat, Montana camping hot dog and hamburger feast where even the bears walked away happy. To finish it all off was a generous supply of Apple Pie and homemade ice cream (the making of which was a new experience partaken by more than a few salivating campers).

The laid back atmosphere of the evening was cut short with the onset of a surprisingly intense thunderstorm which lasted much of the night. As light dawned over Schafer Meadows, a thick rain-induced fog (or was that advection or upslope fog?) blanketed the valley reducing visibility to CAT-III departures and dashed anyone's hopes of an early morning departure. By 8:30 A.M. however, the fog began to burn off allowing participants to leave before the temperature and density altitude began to soar.

All in all, the Schafer Meadows work session was the same as it ever was, yet better than ever.

See more photos of Schafer Work Session on page 4.



Schafer Meadows airstrip is the only wilderness airstrip within the 1.5 million acres that make up the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat wilderness complex.

Administrator's Column

FAA Administrator Nominee:

NTSB Chairman Marion Blakey will have to wait about a month before the U.S. Senate decides whether or not to confirm her as the new FAA Administrator. Outgoing Administrator Jane Garvey's last day was early this month. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta asked Acting Deputy Administrator Monte Belger, who had planned to retire at the end of July, to stay on through August. Belger will serve as Acting Administrator until Blakey can be confirmed and sworn in. Blakey is not expected to face any opposition during her confirmation hearing. ➔

GPS Interference Tests: The Department of Defense is conducting more GPS interference tests in the western United States through October causing GPS navigation to be unreliable at times near the test centers. Areas affected center on the Bonneville (BVL) Vortac in Utah, Truth or Consequences (TCS) Vortac in New Mexico, and Sierra Vista Municipal Airport in Arizona. In the west, the area of unreliability can start within 160 nm of the test center at 4,000 feet AGL and expand with altitude to a radius of 400 nm at 40,000 feet MSL. The FAA publishes outages as GPS notams. Pilots should be sure to ask a preflight briefer about any outages along their route of flight if they're planning to use GPS navigation. GPS notams are included in a standard DUATS briefing. ➔

New Checkride Standards: Beginning this month, applicants for private pilot, commercial pilot, and flight instructor certificates will have to meet new, revised FAA standards during the checkride. AOPA strongly advises flight instructors and applicants to thoroughly read the new PTS, paying extra attention to "Introduction" and "Notes" sections. One of the most interesting changes for private pilot candidates is the addition of a note to the practical test standard explaining that if an examiner determines that a task is incomplete, or the outcome uncertain, the examiner may require the applicant to repeat the task, or portions of that task. This doesn't mean instruction, practice, or repetition of an unsatisfactory task is permitted, but the PTS now does allow an applicant a second

chance to complete a maneuver. The new standards require commercial applicants to now demonstrate a steep spiral and a new task for power-off 180-degree-accuracy approach and landing. Both private and commercial applicants will also be subject to more precise maneuvering standards during slow flight, power-off stalls, and, in the case of private pilots, turns to a heading. ➔

Federal Security Director Hired:

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta announced the selection of 47 federal security directors (FSDs) who will assume responsibility for 149 airports. "These FSDs will be our personal representatives, responsible for ensuring the safety of our skies and fulfilling the Transportation Department's role in the war on terrorism," Secretary Mineta said. "These experienced professionals will be on the front lines in the war on terrorism and are integral in furthering the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) commitment to first-class security and first-class customer service." Mark Randol has been hired for Missoula International Airport. He worked in civil aviation security for the past 14 years in a variety of assignments including as an analyst with the Office of Intelligence; an inspector in FAA's international field office in Brussels, Belgium; a team leader with the Special Assessment Staff ("Red Team"); and a member of the Headquarters Special Actions and Litigation Support Staff. Prior to working with the FAA, Randol served for more than eight years in the U.S. Air Force. He also worked as a civilian terrorism and counterintelligence specialist on the Army Staff at the Pentagon. Randol graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in social science, and has a master's degree in government with a certificate in national security studies from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Randol will also assume FSD responsibilities for airports in Kalispell, Helena and Great Falls, MT. ➔



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Calendar

August 17, 2002 – EAA Chapter 344 Fly-In Breakfast and Young Eagle flights. For further information contact Bob Little littlepup@aol.com.

August 17-18, 2002 – Montana Fun Weekend – Cut Bank Airport. Contacts: Dennis Lenoir (406) 873-2221, Dick Ebert (406) 873-5738, or Roy Nollkamper at (406) 873-2137/5566.

August 24, 2002 – Polson Fly-In & Steak Fry/Pot Luck. Please bring hot dish or dessert. For more information call Tom Seabase at (406) 883-9392 or email Tom at aeroworks@aeroworks.net.

August 31-September 2, 2002 – No Host Fly-In and Campfire Social, Yellowstone Airport. For further information contact Jim Greil, Montana Aeronautics Division (406) 444-2506 or jgreil@state.mt.us.

August 31 – Sept. 2, 2002 – Cleveland National Air Show presented by Discount Drug Mart. Website: www.clevelandairshow.com.

September 7, 2002 – Dillon Fly-In, for further information phone Dillon Flying Service at (406) 683-5242.

September 13-15, 2002 – Mountain Search Pilot Clinic – Kalispell.

September 14 & 15, 2002 – Yellowstone Aviation 20th Anniversary. Come celebrate with RJ & Sandy Moulton owners of Yellowstone Aviation at the Yellowstone Airport in West Yellowstone which opened for business on September 15, 1982 –Fuel at 1982 Prices – Free Buffet! For more information phone (406) 646-7359.

Helena Airshow Big Success

The Heart of the Rockies Airshow was a roaring success with an estimated 20,000 people attending Saturday's show and 12,000 attending Sunday's show. The Blue Angels one of the main attractions decorated the Helena sky with incredible high-flying stunts. Other big attractions included Allen Silver, parachute demonstration; Air Force F-16 demonstration team; Bill Reesman, Red Bull MIG-17 demonstration; Bud Granley, fougua demonstration; Steve Coan, sailplane demonstration; Chuck Haynes, jet car race; Greg Poe, Lazer 300 and the HH-60 Blackhawk CFR team demonstration. Put all these great acts together with static displays including the Air Force's F-16 Falcon, the F-18 Hornet, the Army's Black Hawk helicopter, the Air Force's Pave Hawk, and the Navy E-2 Hawkeye, plus antique aircraft from around the state and it is sure to draw a crowd. On Saturday after a day of great entertainment Downtown Helena hosted a post airshow gathering with Blue Angel pilots and other performers there to sign autographs, along with food and music.

A committee of 30 people worked for two years organizing the event and more than 400 volunteers worked the show itself. Thanks to all of the volunteers and a big thumbs-up to the Helena Civil Air Patrol Cadets, they worked from Wednesday through Sunday helping put up and tear down tents, pick up garbage and sell programs, what a great group of kids!



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Small Airport Safety



According to a recent FBI warning, small airports may be likely target for terrorist activities. Be on your guard. Please report any suspicious activities to your nearest FBI office or local law enforcement office.



Schafer Meadows 2002



Volunteers worked diligently in the hot sun repairing fence at Schafer Meadows – with such hard working crews the work session moved along quite rapidly.



This cheerful group of volunteers turned work into fun making the long-hot day a little easier - a big thank you to all of the volunteers that helped out at the work session – it could not be done without your support and dedication.



Loren Smith and Jane Mart of Great Falls once again provided an awesome meal for all the workers on Saturday night. Loren & Jane both play a very important role in Montana's Backcountry Stirps - Thanks to you both!!



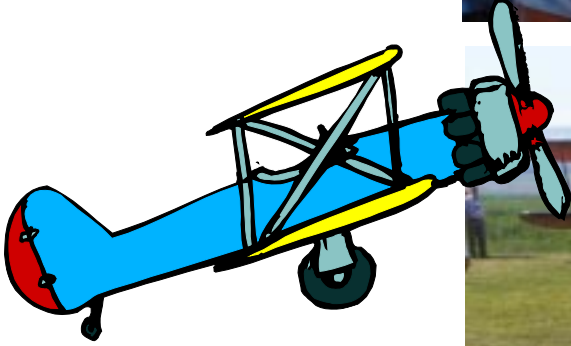
These guilty culprits took time to pose for pictures oblivious to the fact that their homes cause more harm than good to the backcountry airstrips.



Jeanne MacPherson of Montana Aeronautics has one more talent to add to her already long list "Ice Cream Guru"!!

24th Annual Father's Day Fly-In

This year's annual Father's Day Beacon Star Fly-In breakfast turned out to be another huge success. Frank & Patty Bass served up Frank's famous sourdough pancakes, eggs & sausage. The event attracts aviators and others from all over the state including Governor Judy Martz who flew in from Helena to lend a helping hand. Thanks so much Frank & Patty you outdid yourselves once again!!!



In Memory of Jens Peter Spring

Courtesy of Great Falls Tribune



Jens Peter Spring, 96, a former aviator and business owner, died of congestive heart failure on July 26, 2002.

Survivors include a daughter, Patricia Goodrich of Sutherlin, OR; brothers Elmer Spring of Renton, WA; and Lloyd Spring of Chinook, MT; nine grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy; daughters Marilyn Rutherford and Loraine Pulver and brothers Albert and Russell Spring.

Jens was born March 15, 1906, in Lloyd, Montana. He was raised in Chinook and attended school in Chinook through the 10th grade. As a young man, Jens toured the Orient on a Merchant Marine ship. When he returned to Montana in 1925, Jens fell in love with flying. In the early 1930s, he traded his services as an aircraft mechanic for flying lessons in lieu of a salary, and thus began his career as a pilot and businessman. He was a flight instructor from 1943-45, obtained a ground instructor license in 1955, and a commercial pilot's license in May of 1958.

He co-owned Palmer/Spring Flying Service and later owned Northern Aviation, an aircraft sales and charter service business. He continued as a flight instructor, and was very proud of the fact that he had taught many pilots who would go on to fly for major airline companies.

In 1969, he rescued an Apache Airlines flight that had lost its instruments in a storm, and thus was awarded the Pilot of the Year Award "in recognition of his timely and unselfish action in responding to a call for assistance." His efforts in the face of adverse conditions were instrumental in averting a possible disaster and saving the lives of the crew and passengers of the Apache flight. After logging over 18,706 flight hours, he retired from flying at age 71. He later sold his business and retired "officially."

During retirement, he taught himself how to paint, and painted many beautiful oil paintings. He purchased and learned how to use a computer when he was 93 years old. He spent much time "surfing" the Net and e-mailing friends. He loved any and all gadgets and the challenge of learning them. Jens was a self-taught man who won the respect and admiration of those who knew him during his long and fruitful life.

Meadow Creek Volunteers



Above, Sue Dailey of Kalispell, Dan Norhton of Helena and Deb Mucklow, District Ranger, USFS, stained picnic tables at Meadow Creek; the cooperative maintenance support is what keeps the backcountry strips opened for everyone's use. Although the turnout was poor, the small hearty group of volunteers accomplished much that had to be done.



Mike & Sue Dailey of Kalispell carried a steak dinner in on pack horses which was very much appreciated by all the volunteers, the feast was enjoyed after all the work was completed.

Chuck Manning of Kalispell put his Boy Scout skills to good use by getting a fire started to roast hot dogs for Saturday's lunch. Thanks so much to all the volunteers whose efforts made this work session another big success.



Perry Brown of Columbia Falls worked hard clearing brush at the north end of the runway. The Flathead hangar hosted the work session concentrating this year on Meadow Creek maintenance, this included staining picnic tables, painting windsock standards and clearing brush.



Industry Awards Program

Applications are being accepted for the 2003 General Aviation Industry Awards Program. The program is a cooperative effort between the FAA and industry sponsors to recognize outstanding individuals in the *Aviation Maintenance Technician*, *Avionics Technician*, and *Certificated Flight Instructor* fields. The Awards highlight the important role each play in promoting aviation safety and education. Winners will be nationally recognized at the Professional Aviation Maintenance Association (PAMA) convention in 2003 and receive valuable gifts and merchandise provided by the sponsors and contributors.

For criteria/information or to receive an application please call the Montana Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506. Application deadline is November 1, 2002.



Hamilton Airport Fly-In/Pancake Breakfast

By: Jim Greil, Airports/Airways Bureau Chief

On the morning of July 13th, the Ravalli County Airport in conjunction with Northstar Aviation hosted a pilot fly-in and pancake breakfast in the newly remodeled Northstar Aviation hangar in Hamilton. A greater than expected turnout of aircraft and participants were on hand to revel in the abundant supply of pancakes, coffee and great conversation. There was no shortage of hangar flying, airport political talk and the obligatory smiles and hand gestures that accompany them. Included among the many items that were discussed, the current threat of anti-airport rhetoric, the ever-expanding increase in air traffic volume, and the future of the airport were overshadowed by the retirement of the longtime Hamilton Airport manager, and



New owners of North Star Aviation, Michelle & Steve Wolters.

good friend, Warren Woolley. It will be hard to imagine flying into the airport in the future without seeing Warren out on the tractor giving his friendly wave.

A large number of aircraft flew in just for the event, ranging from large twins to small Cessna's. After arriving, attendees were greeted by hot, fresh coffee and golden brown pancakes, which was a perfect caper to a wonderful day of flying weather. Even though the event was held during the same weekend as the popular Schafer Meadows fly-in, attendance was not hurt, and by all accounts, the participants had an equally good time. Hopefully it will not be so long before the next fly-in can take place at the Hamilton Airport, and perhaps if all goes right, it will be in front of a newly remodeled airport as planned.

GAMA Releases Shipments & Billings

The General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) reported that shipments of general aviation airplanes manufactured throughout the world dropped 17 percent to 1,205 units for the first half of 2002. The total dollar value of the airplanes shipped was \$5.9 billion. Shipments of airplanes manufactured in the United States fell 20 percent to 1,206 units, with billings of \$3.6 billion.

"As we projected, billings are off from last year's record levels, and shipments are down on every category of airplane for the first half of this year," said GAMA President Ed Bolen. "This reflects the current uncertainty about the U.S. economy. Hopefully, we will see some improvements as the year progresses."

For the first half of 2002, business jet shipments totaled 357 units, down 9.8 percent from the 396 units delivered in the same period of 2001. Compared to 2001, total turboprop shipments for the first half of 2002 decreased from 204 units to 111 units. Total piston-engine airplane shipments were down 13.4 percent to 737 units compared to 851 units delivered in the first half of 2001.

With regard to only those airplanes manufactured in the U.S., business jet shipments dropped from 298 airplanes in the first six months of 2001 to 268 units this year, a 10 percent decrease. Turboprop shipments fell 55.2 percent to 74 units. Piston-engine airplane shipments dropped 16.6 percent to 684 units.

Exports of U.S. manufactured airplanes fell 24 percent from 250 units in the first six months of 2001 to 190 units this year. Billings for U.S. exports dropped 24 percent to \$1.1 billion.

New Cafe at West Yellowstone

By: Jim Greil, Airports/Airways Bureau Chief



Recently a new cafe opened up for business at the Yellowstone Airport in West Yellowstone, Montana. The new cafe, called the "Runway Cafe", is owned and operated by Bob and Mary Kay Disney, longtime restaurateurs and Montana residents. The cafe, which was opened shortly after the seasonal opening of the airport, is by all accounts just what the airport needed. Our Division has received numerous kudos, expressing delight at the restaurant; it's owners and their fantastic cooking. The owners have purposefully kept their prices low in order to entice a broad range of customers, and for those of you who are used to typical airport restaurant prices, you will be pleasantly surprised.

The restaurant serves a tradition fare of American food, and is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and will have beer and wine sales in the near future. Recently, some of our Division employees traveled to the airport for some work and decided to sample some of Mary Kay's various menu items. It can be reported that all of our employees gave it a hearty thumbs up and were looking forward to their next trip to the airport so they can sample other menu items. Our employees were apparently not alone in their approval, since recently the actor, (and frequent airport visitor), Harrison Ford also partook of Mary Kay's cooking.

The restaurant will be open seasonally in conjunction with the opening and closing of the airport. Currently, the airport is open from June 1st thru Sept 30th each year. Typical menu items include all the American favorites, and be sure to sample some of their hot, gooey cinnamon rolls in the morning. As far as fly-in destinations for the typical pilots "breakfast meetings", be sure to add the new "Runway Cafe" at the West Yellowstone Airport to your list. If you have any questions regarding times, availability or service, please feel free to call Bob or Mary Kay Disney at (406) 646-7639.

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